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LB 1085

this, because it...if it's something that will stop young people from smoking, and people who have been smoking years to quit, because the cost is too high, it...it serves a purpose. And we all know, from health statistics, that smoking is bad for you. And some people want to quit. I know the last time we had an increase in sales tax some of my friends quit, because they said it cost too much, particularly some of them went from three day...three-pack a day to a pack a day, simply because of the cost. So I can't see that it isn't a good idea to...and does it two-fold; it brings in some dollars for the state, and it also helps people to decide if they want to quit. And I think that's as important as anything we could possibly do on this floor, is to assist those people who have a desire to quit. And certainly, whether you believe it or not, when the cost goes up 30 cents, some people are going to take a hard look at it. So I can't think that it isn't the direction to go. And I stand in strong support of Senator Jensen's amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: (Visitors introduced.) Senator Jones.

SENATOR JONES: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. Here we are back on the cigarette tax again. And we had it on once, and even if we put it on again today, I'm sure it's going to come back again and we'll probably have to do something again on it. But I'm...I'm going to support this 30 cents today, to move it on. And I always thought I'd only support about 20 cents, but I think that we need to move this on this way so we can decide what we're going to do later, because a lot of people don't realize it, that whatever is in this package, LB 1085, if it goes on the Governor's desk and it will all get wiped out and start over again. And so this will be gone again then. So it's an interesting process. But I...I think that this is something that we should probably do, at least part of it. And I'm going to support this 30 cents today, to...to move this bill on. And I think that if the body would support this and get it in, and then we end up with a half-cent sales tax, or something like that, well it would make things balance out. And I think that's what we should go for, because whatever we do to send to the Governor's desk, we're going to have to have a package that we can override when it comes back to us. And that will be an interesting vote, I think, when it comes back to us